

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 18, 2012

Mr. Randy Doyle
Ohio Edison
1910 West Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44313

Re: EB-12-GB-0119

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The Federal Communications Commission has received complaints that equipment operated by your utility may be causing harmful radio interference to an operator in the Amateur Radio Service. The complainant is:

(Name withheld)
(Address withheld)
(Address withheld)
Tel: (Number withheld)

The Commission has the responsibility to require that utility companies rectify such problems within a reasonable time if the interference is caused by faulty power utility equipment. Under FCC rules, most power-line and related equipment is classified as an "incidental radiator." This term is used to describe equipment that does not intentionally generate any radio-frequency energy, but that may create such energy as an incidental part of its intended operation.

To help you better understand your responsibilities under FCC rules, here are the most important rules relating to radio and television interference from incidental radiators:

Title 47, CFR Section 15.5 General conditions of operation.

(b) Operation of an intentional, unintentional, or incidental radiator is subject to the conditions that no harmful interference is caused and that interference must be accepted that may be caused by the operation of an authorized radio station, by another intentional or unintentional radiator, by industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) equipment, or by an incidental radiator.

(c) The operator of the radio frequency device shall be required to cease operating the device upon notification by a Commission representative that the device is causing harmful interference. Operation shall not resume until the condition causing the harmful interference has been corrected.

Title 47, CFR Section 15.13 Incidental radiators.

Manufacturers of these devices shall employ good engineering practices to minimize the risk of harmful interference.

Title 47, CFR Section 15.15 General technical requirements.

(c) Parties responsible for equipment compliance should note that the limits specified in this part will not prevent harmful interference under all circumstances. Since the operators of Part 15 devices are required to cease operation should harmful interference occur to authorized users of the radio frequency spectrum, the parties responsible for equipment compliance are encouraged to employ the minimum field strength necessary for communications, to provide greater attenuation of unwanted emissions than required by these regulations, and to advise the user as to how to resolve harmful interference problems (for example, see Sec. 15.105(b)).

While the Commission has confidence that most utility companies are able to resolve these issues voluntarily, the Commission wants to make your office aware that this unresolved problem may be a violation of FCC rules and could result in a monetary forfeiture for each occurrence. At this stage, the Commission encourages the parties to resolve this problem without Commission intervention, but if necessary to facilitate resolution, the Commission may investigate possible rules violations and address appropriate remedies. In order to assist you in expeditiously resolving this matter, the complainant has located at least two (2) of the sources of noise close to his residence. The two (2) sources of noise that he has identified are as follows:

- Pole #69AR 2-4: The pole is located directly across the street from 5570 Unger Road.
- the pole adjacent to the mailbox at 5087 Unger Road.

Given the fact this case has been ongoing for quite some time without resolution and Ohio Edison has had ample time to make the necessary repairs, you are directed to respond to the undersigned within 30 days of receipt of this letter detailing what steps you have taken to resolve the two (2) instances of interference listed above that are reported as being caused by your equipment. Likewise you are further directed to provide to the undersigned within 60 days of receipt of this letter a written report as to what steps Ohio Edison has undertaken to locate and identify additional sources of interference and what steps Ohio Edison intends to take to correct (name withheld's) radio frequency interference. Please direct your response to the following address: 1270

Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at 717-338-2577. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Smith, Esq.
Special Counsel
Enforcement Bureau

cc: Detroit Field Office
Northeast Regional Director